

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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Governor Bullock Announces New Apprenticeship Opportunities

New accounting technology apprenticeship to help build career pathways for Montana's future workforce and fill jobs for businesses

MONTANA – Governor Steve Bullock today announced that the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Job Service Missoula, and Missoula College have collaborated to launch the state's first Accounting Technology apprenticeship program.

“Montanans don't need to wait to get a degree to get a good job,” said Governor Bullock. **“This is an exciting opportunity for a handful of Montanans to make good money while they gain in-demand skills employers need.”**

Fueled by the \$1.3 million grant awarded to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry this past fall by the U.S. Department of Labor, this new program builds on the momentum of other successful new apprenticeship programs being targeted for workforce development in six priority industry sectors including: finance, energy, construction trades, health care, information technology, and advanced manufacturing.

The first group of employers will pilot the five-semester program that combines classes from Missoula College with earn-while-you-learn “on-the-job-training” employment for apprentices. Instead of going to college for two years and then entering the workforce, apprentices can attend college and gain valuable work experience in their chosen career field at the same time. Upon completing their training program, apprentices will receive a nationally recognized certificate of completion from the Department of Labor & Industry and an Associate of Science degree from Missoula College.

“Apprenticeships remain an important workforce training model because Montana doesn't have two, four or even six years to have people graduate before they can enter the workforce,” says Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Pam Bucy. **“We look forward to working with all our college partners to implement additional opportunities for Montanans to learn the skills employers are looking for and to move the state's economy forward.”**

"Apprenticeships are an amazing opportunity to ensure that our workforce is ready," said Shannon O'Brien, Dean and Professor at Missoula College. **"Students learn directly from the experts in the field, gaining credentials needed by employees to verify their knowledge and skills, while earning a college degree."**

Last month, Governor Bullock signed into law his apprenticeship tax credit (HB 308) to incentivize businesses to grow, create good-paying jobs for Montana families, and build employee skills. The legislation gives Montana businesses a \$750 tax credit for every position hired where the worker is offered on-the-job training through the Montana Registered Apprenticeship Unit. The tax credit is doubled for every veteran hired.

For more information on the Accounting Technology apprenticeship program, please contact Missoula College faculty member, Lisa Swallow at (406) 243-7810, or Montana Registered Apprenticeship Specialist, Jimmie Rude at (406) 542-5744.

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